

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 15 and 26 through 29 is noted with appreciated.

Independent claim 36 is directed to a method of helping to secure an infant in a child's seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the child's seat. The method includes providing first, second and third cushions having an upside down U-shaped structure. The first cushion is positioned in the child's seat with a base portion of the first cushion in engagement with a back surface of the child's seat. The legs of the first cushion extend along and in engagement with the side walls of the child's seat.

The second cushion is set forth in claim 36 as being positioned in the child's seat with the base portion of the second cushion in engagement with the base portion of the second cushion. The legs of the second cushion are positioned in engagement with the legs of the first cushion.

The third cushion is set forth in claim 36 as being positioned in the child's seat with the base portion of the third cushion in engagement with the base portion of the second cushion. The legs of the third cushion are positioned in engagement with the legs of the second cushion.

The infant is set forth in claim 36 as being placed in the child's seat with lateral sides and top of the head of the infant at least partially enclosed by the base portion of the third cushion. The hips and legs of the infant are at least partially disposed between the first and second legs of the first cushion. This

reduces the surface area of the child's seat for the infant to occupy in order to help minimizing of slouching of the infant in the child's seat.

Claim 36 defines over the prior art, and particularly the patents to Perron (4,776,049), Ive (5,586,351), and Tandrup (5,826,287), by setting forth the steps of positioning first, second and third cushions having an upside down U-shaped structure in a child's seat. Claim 36 further defines over the prior art by setting forth the step of positioning the second cushion in the child's seat as including positioning the base portion of the second cushion in engagement with the base portion of the first cushion. Claim 36 further defines over the prior art by setting forth the step of positioning the second cushion in the child's seat as including positioning first and second legs of the second cushion in engagement with the first and second legs of the first cushion.

In addition, claim 36 further defines over the prior art by setting forth the step of positioning the base portion of the third cushion in engagement with the base portion of the second cushion. Claim 36 also sets forth the step of positioning the first and second legs of the third cushion in engagement with the first and second legs of the second cushion.

Claims 37 through 39 depend from claim 36 and define over the prior art for substantially the same reasons as does claim 36 and by virtue of the method steps set forth in these claims taken in combination with the method steps of claim 36. Specifically, claim 37 sets forth the axial end portions of the first and second legs of the third cushion as extending beyond axial ends of the first and second legs of the second cushion.

Claim 38 depends from claim 36 and sets forth the step of placing the infant into the child's seat as including placing the infant in the child's seat with axial ends of the legs of the second cushion disposed adjacent to the shoulders of the infant.

Claim 39 depends from claim 38 and sets forth the step of placing the infant into the child's seat as including placing the infant in the child's seat with portions of the first and second legs of the third cushion disposed adjacent to upper portions of the arms of the infant.

Independent claim 40 is directed to an apparatus which includes first, second, and third cushions having upside down U-shaped structures. The base portion of the first cushion is disposed in engagement with the back surface of the child's seat. The legs of the first cushion extend along the side walls of the child's seat.

The second cushion is set forth in claim 40 as having a base portion which is disposed in engagement with the base portion of the first cushion. The legs of the second cushion are disposed in engagement with the legs of the first cushion.

The third cushion is set forth in claim 40 as having a base portion which is disposed in engagement with the base portion of the second cushion. The legs of the third cushion are disposed in engagement with the legs of the second cushion.

The base portion of the third cushion is set forth in claim 40 as being adapted to at least partially enclose lateral sides and top of a head of an infant disposed in the child's seat. The first and second legs of the first cushion are adapted to at least partially enclose hips and legs of the infant. The first, second

and third cushions cooperate to reduce surface areas of the child's seat for the infant to occupy to help minimize slouching of the infant in the child's seat.

Claim 40 defines over the prior art, and particularly the patents to Perron (4,776,049), Ive (5,586,351), and Tandrup (5,826,287), by setting forth first, second, and third cushions having an upside down U-shaped structure. None of the references disclosed using first, second and third cushions having an upside down U-shaped structure in association with a child's seat to reduce surface area of the child's seat for the infant to occupy to help minimize slouching of the infant in the child's seat.

In addition, claim 40 defines over the prior art by setting forth the second cushion as having a base portion which is disposed in engagement with the base portion of the first cushion and as having first and second legs disposed in engagement with the first and second legs of the first cushion. Furthermore, claim 40 sets forth the third cushion as having the base portion which is disposed in engagement with a base portion of the second cushion and first and second legs which are disposed in engagement with the first and second legs of the second cushion.

Claim 41 depends from claim 40 and sets forth the first leg of the third cushion as extending beyond an axial end of the first leg of the second cushion in a direction away from the base portion of the third cushion. The second leg of the third cushion extends beyond an axial end of the second leg of the second cushion in a direction away from the base portion of the third cushion. The prior art does not even remotely suggests this relationship between the legs of the second and third cushions.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application clearly and patentably define over the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and this application passed to issue. If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner call applicant's attorneys in Cleveland, Ohio at 621-2234, area code 216. Please charge any deficiency in the fees for this application to our Deposit Account Number 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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